WHIRRAKEE

March 2007 Vol. 28 No. 2

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
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Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Matthew Comer, Bill Holsworth, Darren White, Bob Ruddick, Rod Orr, Jan Orr, Peter Ellis, Ben Goonan, Richard Goonan, Anthony Sheean, Liz Graham

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 28, No. 2, March 2007

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Club Excursions in 2007	Richard Goonan	3
At the next general meeting…		3
North Central Waterwatch Monitoring Program	Leigh Mitchell	3
News from WRIN	Brenda Cheers	4
February General Meeting – Members' Slide Night	Sabine Wilkens	5
'Birds in Backyards' program	Holly Parsons	6
Two letters	Peter Ellis	6
Flora Hill (school) cluster	Danielle Allan	9
BFNC Excursion program 2007	Richard Goonan	10

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note:
Some people are incredible in their devotion of time and effort to the things they care about. Tirelessly, they write submissions, attend meetings and participate in decision making with the best possible outcomes for our natural environment in mind. In this issue, you can read about the efforts made my WRIN members to rescue animals after bushfires. The dedication of these wildlife carers is just overwhelming. Some club members spent much time writing letters, and we have two examples of such letters in this Whirrakee. Others are leading figures in the move to include the Wellsford Forest in the Greater Bendigo National Park. How fantastic that would be! Everybody is very very busy, and this issue is dedicated to those people that busy themselves even further in the interest of our bushland and its inhabitants.
A big thank you also to Richard Goonan, whose 2007 excursion program begins and ends this edition of the Whirrakee.

Front Page Illustration – Photographer Jo Carnsew
For all you spider lovers, here is Darren Green admiring a 'Bird-eating Spider' from N-Queensland.

BFNC Excursions 2007

by Richard Goonan

Following the resumption of regular club excursions during 2006, another series of local and regional excursions have been planned for this year. Thank you to all members who made the effort to attend excursions during 2006, and I hope to see you again this year. Excursions are a great opportunity to meet other club members, share knowledge and interests, learn from others and introduce new members or potential members to the club. Much positive feedback was received from members who participated throughout the year, and where possible, any comments and ideas have been incorporated into this year's calendar. I would still like to have more input from all club members regarding the trips we undertake, and suggestions can be made at any time. The calendar (see page 10) is open to change and may alter throughout the year. For example, last year one trip was cancelled due to fire in the Barmah forest and a clash with other commitments. Due to the level of interest in the Barmah trip, I have included it again for April this year. The roadside excursion with Ben Goonan will be on again in September, looking at some of the many interesting aspects of roadside vegetation. Please try and indicate your attendance as early as possible for trips where a bus is necessary (April, June, Sept), to assist transport organisation. Please note that unlike last year, not all trips will start at the club rooms, and we will meet at different locations throughout the year. When a bus is used, we will meet, as usual, at the club rooms. All excursions are on the Saturday following the monthly meeting except May which is a week later to fit in with the swift parrot survey.
See you on the next excursion!

Trust for Nature Conservation Bulletin

For those of you who might have been looking for this magazine, Elvyne Hogan has organised another copy for our library (just in case it has disappeared).

At the next general meeting...

Leigh Mitchell, the Regional Waterwatch coordinator of the NCCMA, will speak at the next general meeting.

During the presentation, Leigh will spend a bit of time talking about the species of frogs found in this region, their biology, threats etc, followed by a discussion of their frog monitoring program (described below).

North Central Waterwatch Frog Monitoring Program

By Leigh Mitchell

In light of the huge success Melbourne Water has had with its Frog Census program, generating invaluable frog distribution data and raising community awareness of frogs and their plight, North Central Waterwatch has developed its own regional Frog Identification and Monitoring Program.

The major aims of this project are to raise people's awareness of the types of frogs that live in the North Central region and to increase the understanding of their distributions. By raising awareness of the types of frogs, their life cycles, preferred habitats, breeding habits, feeding patterns and threats to their survival, North Central Waterwatch hopes to foster an interest in frog conservation among the community.

The program focuses on developing frog identification and surveying techniques in participants, as well as alerting people to some of the issues affecting frogs in our region and beyond. North Central Waterwatch will be offering information and training sessions, monitoring equipment and technical support throughout this program.

How do we survey frogs?

Each species of frog has a characteristic "call" that can be used to identify them in most cases (sometimes the calls can be very similar between species and other means of identification must be used). Survey participants will use digital voice recorders (provided by North Central Waterwatch) to record frog calls, note certain site characteristics and other information (date/time etc) to return to North Central Waterwatch

for analysis. All frog distribution data collected by North Central Waterwatch volunteers will be stored on a database and then forwarded to relevant management authorities, providing them with valuable frog distribution information.

Participants can conduct surveys at any time; advice will be provided regarding the most appropriate time and places to survey. We have also created a range of frog identification sheets to help participants get to know the species of frog they are most likely to find in the North Central region. Please visit the website below to view these resources.
http://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/inform.php?a=7&b=625&c=626

News from WRIN

by Brenda Cheers

We hope all members of the Bendigo Field Naturalists had a safe and happy Christmas, Gary and I are hoping to get to more of your meetings this year and having the chance to chat to members.
WRIN started off the year by celebrating its 10th birthday, the 8kg mud cake went down well at the Australia Day display, I'm told, two other WRIN members and I were in Melbourne with an RACV display, we were more than a bit disappointed when we arrived home late to find no one had saved us even a crumb.
Members are busy at present, the fires burning around the state are ensuring there is little time off for holidays or lazy days. The death toll on wildlife is very high and will continue to rise for a long time yet. Koalas are the high profile animal in the fires, they would seem to be a little safer than the ground-dwelling animals, unfortunately even if they are lucky enough to escape the flames – and few are – they suffer dehydration and starvation as the leaves of their trees dry up. A recently rescued koala with burns to feet and face is currently with a WRIN member, it takes a minimum of four hours each day to dress burns and individually feed it leaves, dipped in electrolytes.
Another member has nine in care, five have reached the able-to-go-outside-stage, four are still in intensive care although dressings are now changed every second day and they are able to eat themselves, each dressing change for the four takes between 9 and 10 hours to accomplish.
The less fortunate victims are possums/gliders, macropods and reptiles. Most, but not all, echidnas seem to escape relatively unscathed, and the highlight on one of our search days was sighting two echidnas going about their business as if the warm black ground with no ground cover was the norm. Echidnas with spines burnt off have been found.
A number of skink species – bluetongues as well as smaller varieties were found dead, but after several days it was nice to see a number of the very small skins very active on the ground.
Ants were already back at work on the black ground less than a week after the flames passed over, the bull ants – red and black varieties – were given a wide berth.
Brushtail as well as ringtail possums were found dead; during last years' fires we found disorientated possums on the ground long after the fires were out, most were flyblown and often blind. Macropods are also found in this condition. They have a very tough time after fires, most have very severely burnt feet and hands, but their instinct for survival means they are generally not able to be captured until it is too late to treat the burns; they will evade capture until it is impossible to take another step. The best we can do for most macropods is to euthanise, in-pouch joeys mostly fare better but smoke and ash inhalation means they can also have problems.
In one ara I picked up the sloughed skin of a black snake and when I looked into a small shallow scrape in the ground, less than 100 feet away, I saw who I assumed was the owner of the old coat, its back shiny in the hot sun as it almost silently moved around the scrape, I backed off as fast as I could; as far as I'm concerned half way up a steep hill on deep soft ash with no rocks to jump on is not a good place to be when there is an active snake around.

The area we worked early in February had a surprising number of birds active in and on the burnt ground, plenty of species including a family of very young grey fantails. Three wedge-tailed eagles were seen regularly in one location, no doubt homing in on the animals that had been euthanised. European wasps were also seen in a couple of areas, a worry as they will no doubt take over some of the remaining hollows.
WRIN members will be attending fire areas for a long time yet, we have found that searches need to continue for a minimum of six weeks after fire has passed through an area.

Victor Hurley will be talking to WRIN on his beloved Peregrines at our next meeting on 31st March.
Meeting starts at 1pm, (not sure when Victor will begin).
$2 to help cover costs

February General Meeting
Members' Slide Night

Author: Sabine Wilkens

The first general meeting of the year is usually devoted to members' slides. Usually these are members' holiday slides but occasionally, other, unexpected gems turn up. Peter Ellis had a single slide to show us, but it was a rather special one. It had been taken in the Whipstick forest in the late 1950s and featured club members, on what was presumably an excursion to a significant site. This photo was taken even before Peter joined the club (1963?) and had lots of our 'oldies' guessing who was who, and why they were there. Peter had obtained the print from Bill Perry's collection and it was presumably he who took the photo. Nearly 50 years on and there were still people present who knew some of the members. Apart from this amazing fact, the fashion worn by the ladies was quiet interesting too....

Another slide presenter was Glenise Moors. Her holiday shots were taken in her grandchildren's school holidays last year. They showed Glenise training the young ones in the art of natural history and field natting at Mt Herbert, where Glenise has her robin field plot. One photo, worth a million dollars, showed the young granddaughter absolutely delighted in seeing a bird close up. The selection finished off with several stunning shots of the comet McNaught that was visible last month. I saw the real thing from my backyard, but these photos were so much better, as they were taken at a particularly dark location away from Bendigo's night lights.

Then it was Bill's turn. The Holdsworths had recently been to Kakadu National Park and other parts of Northern Australia. The traces of Cyclone Larry will still be visible for years to come. One interesting slide was of a member of the Psilophyta, a group of ancient plants that was around before dinosaurs roamed the earth. This plant has dichotomously branching leaves and looks very orderly and appealing.

Miriam Bruning showed some slides of Harvey Bay and Fraser Island fauna and flora. We saw loggerhead turtles laying eggs and then, since she had laid them below the tide line, several people moving them within two hours to above the tide line to save them from drowning. With its fascinating flora of Screw Palm, King Fern and Hoop Pine, Fraser Island almost rates like Lord Howe Island in its attraction for me. One day...

Rod and Jan Orr also had been to Kakadu National Park. There must have been a major contingent there from Bendigo over the last year (sometimes I feel I am the only person who hasn't been). Rod showed some unusual bird photos, amongst them the Red Goshawk, a very rare bird indeed. On this occasion the Orrs learned how to use their telescope to take photos and we were treated to some of the result. As a viewer it looks fantastic, you feel a bit like a pirate.

Throughout the evening there was a bit of trouble with the new data show projector and I had to go before the Watkins' slides were to come on (from their recent trip to Britain). I don't know if they eventually succeeded, but even if they hadn't, the audience knew that, their slides would have been superb. They always are. For anybody who wants to have a good showing, the fauna group has the Watkins booked for their next meeting (see back page).

What I saw of the night was very diverse and interesting. There is always so many great slides there, we might even have to have this sort of night twice a year, to clear the backlog...

Birds in Backyards Program

by Holly Parsons

The Birds in Backyards Program needs photographs of good bird gardens and we are hoping some of you can help.

The program is nearing completion of its *Best Practice Guidelines for Urban Bird Habitat,* and we are looking for photos of bird-friendly gardens to feature in it. These *Guidelines,* while being aimed primarily at local governments, urban planners, developers etc, will also be appropriate for individuals. They are based on scientific research undertaken throughout Australia on urban avifauna and habitat and are being edited by both a scientific and a reference committee. This makes them unique in Australia and we are hoping they will influence change in many local government development activities as well as individuals working in their home gardens. They will be available from the Birds in Backyards website by the middle of this year:
http://www.birdsinbackyards.net
In particular we are looking for gardens that are either 'messy' or 'neat', and predominantly, but not necessarily exclusively, use locally native plant species, creating lots of structure. We are also looking for photos of hedges that have been created using native plants. As Australia is such a diverse country, and the principals of the *Guidelines* will be adaptable to a broad range of this diversity, it would be great if we could find examples of bird attracting gardens from a broad range of habitats and locations.

If you have a great garden that fits any of these criteria and don't mind submitting a photo or two please email it to:
bird.backyard@bigpond.com

We need to know the name of the photographer to acknowledge them under the photo and also the suburb and city or location in which the photo was taken. A few details about what you have done to create your garden or interesting birds you have visiting would also be appreciated, as well as some notes about the plants you have used, or the plants that are most successful.
Many thanks,

Holly Parsons, Project Officer
Birds in Backyards Program, Birds Australia

Letter to the 'Bendigo Weekly'

Author: Peter Ellis

Dear Sir/Madam,
I overwhelmingly support the proposal of incorporating the Wellsford Forest into the Greater Bendigo National Park. Not only is this in keeping with the morals of the slogan 'A city within a forest', but it is going to be an essential requirement for the city's well being in the future. Given the likelihood of increasing pressure from climate change and the rising frequency of super droughts, every square metre of protected forest will be required to help keep the city that smidge of a degree cooler and in providing and recycling fresh air as well as a refuge for wildlife and overwhelmingly a recreational outlet for our every growing population. To provide maximum benefit this can only be maintained by a stress free non working forest, nurtured as nature intended.

Setting aside the drab and desiccating effects of a decade of worst drought in living memory, in normal seasons the Wellsford Forest is a most attractive tract of bushland. The landscape of unusual black trunks of the ironbarks are contrasted in spring with a glorious kaleidoscope of yellows, purples, pinks and white of massed and colourful displays of wildflowers underneath. I refer to carpets of golden everlastings which hold over several months into early summer, of golden pennants and clustered pockets of mint bush, calytrix, eggs and bacon and tea trees, to mention a few. It does not require a scientific census of rare plants, to impart a realisation of what utmost importance this area is as the final link in the National Park greenbelt that should completely encircle Bendigo. It supports a wonderful array of native birds and wildlife such as the Tuan (brush tailed phascogale) and pockets of treasures such as the locally renowned 'Cryptandra corner'. *Cryptandra* is a beautiful little heath type shrub with tiny waxy white and pink bells in late winter. There is no other case but for the Wellsford Forest to be added to the Greater Bendigo National Park.

Yours sincerely, Peter N Ellis

Editor's note:
This is Peter Ellis' additional response to the poll recently conducted by the 'Bendigo Weekly'. Peter intentionally used common names, as this was a letter to be easily understood by the public. Also, with regard to the 'Cryptandra corner', this was a favourite excursion point for the club in the 1960s and 70s. The Cryptandra *has been decimated by the Kangaroos, but would come back if a suitable roo proof fence were established, or something else to frighten them off. Peter took Matthew Comer out there a couple of years back, but couldn't find any* Cryptandra *bushes, as he remembered them, but then, Matt went back again, and with close scrutiny, found the plants, or remnants, or that their bases were still there. ...So it just needs to have Skippy skip elsewhere.*

Another letter from Peter Ellis:
To Julie Rivendell (about the proposed Huntly landfill site)

Introduction (by Peter):
On January 24th, the Life Members of the BFNC, Glenise and Rob Moors, Bill Holsworth, Rod Orr and myself had a deputation to Jacinta Allen, local MP, about the City of Greater Bendigo's proposed landfill tip which adjoins the Whipstick section of National Park. We were well received and as I know the lady mayor personally, who is resident only a few doors down Flora Lane, I offered to present her with my personal views on the situation. Included in the letter below, were copies of Frank Robbins' extensive Surveys of the Whipstick from the mid 1960s to early 1970s, a map showing the large tracts of land the Government had purchased and added to the State Park of the day (mid 1980s) as well as the Whipstick Flora Census from the 1971 Forest Park Submission.
My view is that if you want to gain ground, wait till you see the whites of their eyes, and let them have it.

Dear Julie,
I have needed to talk with you for some time, but since you've become mayor, I understand how busy you are, and I'm also fairly involved with getting another book published and various issues. So getting together mightn't be that easy. Since the various issues of the proposed new landfill tip site have come to light, my level of concern has been heightened and I feel some facts about the adjoining Whipstick section of National Park need to be raised.

Firstly there is no doubt a modern landfill tip will be needed for Greater City of Bendigo in the future, it is simply a question of location. That which has been proposed has a number of serious drawbacks, and in fact, I would think if a proper environmental impact study is held on that location and the Government is acquainted with the facts, the City of Greater Bendigo may be over-ruled on that particular site. It is imperative that a sound alternative and a more isolated and environmentally compatible location is sought and investigated.

Of all the Greater Bendigo National Park greenbelt, the Whipstick and Kamarooka section is by far the most significant. Proposals for a Whipstick and Mandurang National Park respectively were first submitted by the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club in the late 1950s and the Whipstick and Kamarooka Forest Parks created by 1973. By the1980s the two Forest Parks were joined together by central Crown Lands and increased into one consolidated unit as Whipstick and Kamarooka State Park respectively.

There are two significant factors that catalysed this important step in what was later to become part of the Greater Bendigo National Park.

One was the extensive mapping and flora survey carried out by the late Frank Robbins of the BFNC from the mid 1960s to the 70s. It was actually carried out in his car which I later purchased from Frank (the FJ), and I accompanied him on some of the survey work. This provided much of the necessary scientific data to assist the Land Conservation Council and the Government of the day in its decision to support the conservation of the area. I was Secretary of the BFNC in the early 1970s and it was Frank Robbins' maps that were of immeasurable importance in our submissions then, and now.

The other factor was that the Government made available considerable funds to allow buy back of private lands to join the parks into one viable unit.

Enclosed are copies of Frank Robbins' articles and maps which will provide some appreciation of the documentation which remains accurate to this day except for the odd isolated tree or plant that may have succumbed to drought etc. Also enclosed is a 1985 map prepared by the club based on the former Forest Park and Crown Land areas and showing in black, all of the land that had been purchased to add and join these tracts together into the State Park system. Much more has been procured since 1985.

Apart from abutting the Whipstick section of the National Park, the proposed landfill tip site is smack bang on one of the main approach roads to the Whipstick and will be visually incompatible with an area of national significance.

At the recent meeting at Huntly, which I was unable to attend, some locals raised concern about water drainage lines across the site and through to the adjoining park. In normal years much less in an exceptional wet year, there is an enormous run off of water from this land and into the park and across Skylark Road. I know, because I was once bogged in that very location. Leaching from the landfill area, I would think, will be a real problem.

It is my opinion that following an Environmental Impact Study of the area and given the enormous conservation commitment of the Government, backed by the extensive flora and fauna records held by the BFNC, that the City of Greater Bendigo will find itself in the position of political hari-kari if it does not pursue a more reasonable alternative location for the proposed landfill tip.

The exact location of this proposed area used once to have the most magnificent display of Whirrakee Wattle, then known as the Hakea Wattle paddock, together with the block on the other side of the road. It was a real tourist attraction. I believe the best thing would be for the City of Greater Bendigo to demonstrate it is committed to our very significant 'city within a forest' concept, by having the landfill site regenerated with Whirrakee Wattle and other indigenous plants and trees and the area added to the park.

Council needs to seek professional advice from modern landfill agencies for a better and sound alternative location of landfill tip.
I hope you will be receptive to this information and my suggestions which are offered in good faith.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

To the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club

Editor's note: This letter is for your information. This organisation is seeking our support. Can anybody with ideas respond to Danielle?

The Flora Hill Cluster (seven schools) based in Bendigo is currently developing an ASISTM grant application to support the development of an authentic learning centre on the five acre site of the old Mandurang South Primary School.

The concept is being developed around the Australian Schools Network 6As protocols of ensuring all programs involve:

Authenticity
Academic Rigour
Applied Learning
Active Exploration
Adult Relationships
Assessment

In addition, all programs will be underpinned by the quality teaching of applied Maths, Science, Sustainability and Leadership concepts linked to our local, national and global community.

Other core aspects of the concept include:

The development of a website to enable all schools to access high quality curriculum resources and student project data either on or off-site.
The development of a core program for Year 4 and Year 8 students to be based out at the site for a term, as a replacement to a camp.
The development of parallel short term student engagement programs for targeted groups of students.
The opportunity for primary students, secondary students, university students and local community experts to work collaboratively on authentic projects.

The future success of the Authentic Learning Centre concept also depends upon the quality of the project partners that agree to come on board. So far Latrobe University Bendigo is extremely interested and we intend to develop major partnerships with:

City of Greater Bendigo
Parks Victoria (we have had past support with our Box Ironbark project)
Gould League

Given the strong curriculum development nature of the proposed centre we are also hoping to convince your organisation (Bendigo Field Naturalists) to consider becoming a major partner. A delegation from our Cluster would greatly appreciate an opportunity to discuss the matter further at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

Danielle Allan & Dale Little (2007 Cluster Educator)

Danielle Allan
2006 Flora Hill Cluster Educator
(Based at Kennington PS until Feb 16th)
Ph 5443 2011
Fax: 5441 7321
Mob: 0403 8077 24
E-mail: allan.danielle.t@edumail.vic.gov.au
Cluster Website:
http://www.florahill.vic.edu.au/cluster

BFNC EXCURSIONS CALENDAR 2007

Richard Goonan – 0423418815 Email: richardgoonan@optusnet.com.au

DATE	FEB 17	MARCH 17	APRIL 14	MAY 19	JUNE 16	JULY 14	AUGUST 11	SEPT 15	OCT 13	NOV 17	DEC 15
LOCATION	KAMAROOKA	***SEWERAGE FARM and WHIPSTICK***	***BARMAH FOREST***	***WELLSFORD FOREST***	***DAYLESFORD***	***MT ALEXANDER***	***LOCAL VEGETATION SURVEY***	***NORTH CENTRAL ROADSIDES***	**MANDURANG**	***MT ALEXANDER***	
COMMENT Please **Register Attendance By 1st of the MONTH**	Areas of the Kamarooka have been identified as a "drought refuge". Short walks at forest dams for birdwatching.	Local birds, water birds, forest birds. Short walks on and off track.	Birds, Plants, Murray River, Wetlands?	Swift parrot surveys. Local fauna habitat. The Wellsford forest is an extensive area of Box / Ironbark forest that has many significant values	Fungi, short walks, birds, plants, orchids, mining relics,	*Ballantinia antipoda*, Pine tree ringbarking	Local vegetation survey in areas that have been burnt, are proposed to be burnt, and other areas of interest; Eaglehawk Jackass Flat Mandurang Whipstick	Travel around the district looking at some of the issues associated with roadside conservation plants, birds, and habitat.	Nest boxes, *Boronia anemonifolia* *Hybanthus floribundus* and *Philotheca pubesans*	Native plants, birds, weeds, Survey Quadrats	
COST / Meeting point	Car pool HUNTLY	Car pool Sewage farm Gate Wallenjoe Rd	TBA CLUB ROOM	Car pool CLUB ROOM	$20.00 CLUB ROOM	Car pool SUMMIT - Mt Alexander	Car pool CLUB ROOM	$15.00 CLUB ROOM	Car pool Spring Gully general Store/ Oval car park	Car pool SUMMIT – Mt Alexander	
TIME MEET: Return:	**7:00 am** **1:00 pm**	**8:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**7:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**8:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**8:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**9:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**9:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**8:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**8:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**8:00 am** **3:00 pm**	**8:00 am** **3:00 pm**

BRING: Lunch / Snacks, Water, Hat, Sunglasses, Long Sleeve Shirt, Sturdy Footwear (Boots), Long Pants or Gaiters, Personal medical requirements.

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, March 14 **7.30pm**
Leigh Mitchell from the North Central Catchment Management Authority will talk about the work of the NCCMA on Frog ID and community education about frogs (see page 3 in this issue).

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, March 28 **7.30pm**
There will be a 'good showing' of Rob and Cynthia Watkins' slides from their recent tour of Kakadu National Park and the North-West – a very promising evening.

Fauna Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

Next WRIN meeting

Victor Hurley will be talking to WRIN on his beloved Peregrines at our next meeting on 31st March.
Meeting starts at 1pm, not sure when Victor will begin.
$2 to help cover costs

New Edition of Box Ironbark CD The new edition of 'Plants and Animals of the Box-Ironbark Area of Central Victoria' is still available at the usual price of $ 50
....and **Wildlife of the Box Ironbark Country by Chris Tzaros** is also still available at $ 30.-.

Please contact Bill Holsworth if you are interested in purchasing one of these.

Bendigo Field Naturalists on the web

Any comments about the site are most welcome http://communitysites.impulse.net.au/bendigofieldnaturalists/fnats.html

An interesting seminar series

The Centre of Environmental Management (University of Ballarat, Mt Helen Campus) in conjunction with DSE present a varied and interesting seminar program. Details will be supplied as they come to hand. Some topics are TBA (to be advised) but some people may know the speaker and what their topic will be already.
The contact person is S.K. Florentine and he can be reached at s.florentine@ballarat.edu.au or by Phone on 5327 9231.

27 April, speaker: Graeme Coulson
Topic: TBA

11 May, speaker: Fleur Maidment
Topic: TBA

20 July, speaker: Professor Rod Keenan
Topic: Quantifying forest ecosystem services: policy issues and methodological challenges

24 August, speaker: Dr David Cameron
Topic: The conservation status of Victorian Flora: the recent IUCN based review and case studies.